



STATE SENATOR  
**BRUCE PATTERSON**  
IN THE LOOP ★

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**Please forward to a friend!**

Now, more than ever, we need to be thankful for the sacrifices that our veterans have made. In these trying times, we are grateful for the risks they have taken so we can be safe and free. We need to cherish all of these honorable men and women. Thank a veteran for your freedom!

## Legislative News

### **Measure protecting mourning families becomes law**

Protesters are now prohibited from demonstrating within 500 feet of the property line of a location hosting a funeral, burial, funeral procession or memorial service under legislation recently signed into law.

Senate Bill 1256, now Public Act 166 of 2008, expands restrictions established in current law covering non-federal sites. Several states, including Indiana, have passed similar legislation.

In 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act, sponsored by Michigan Congressman Mike Rogers. The measure bars protests at national cemeteries, but failed to cover cemeteries not under control of the National Cemetery Administration and Arlington National Cemetery.

## **Economic revitalization legislation approved by Senate**

In an effort to rejuvenate the state's economy, the Michigan Senate recently passed two bills that will reduce the tax burden on job providers, spur business investment and create jobs.

Senate Bill 1242 phases out the surcharge to the Michigan Business Tax over three years beginning Jan. 1, 2009. The surcharge would be reduced from the current 21.99 percent to 14.66 percent in tax year 2009, 7.33 percent in tax year 2010, and would be eliminated in tax year 2011.

The phase-out or reduction of the surcharge was the primary recommendation that came from the findings of the Senate MBT Impact Assessment Subcommittee, after the panel heard from numerous business owners throughout the state about the need to eliminate the surcharge.

Senate Bill 1038 fixes a structural problem in the MBT by amending the definition of "gross receipts," essentially wiping out the current "tax on a tax." The measure will provide tax relief to an estimated 50,000 Michigan job providers.

SBs 1038 and 1242 are now in the House for consideration.

## **Senate approves legislation to help make university research more accessible**

Legislation that will help create more jobs in Michigan by making innovative research and technologies generated by state universities more accessible to the state's businesses was recently approved by the state Senate.

Senate Bill 1195 would amend a portion of the 21st Century Jobs program to accelerate university technology transfer with a focus on technologies that will improve the bio-economy.

Technology transfer is the process of sharing research, knowledge, and skills among industries, universities and governments to ensure that scientific and technological developments are accessible to users for developing new products, applications, materials or services.

SB 1195 has been sent to the House for consideration.

## **Senate passes preservation tax bill to help development**

The Michigan Senate has approved legislation that beefs up the historic preservation tax credit and helps Michigan downtowns in their redevelopment efforts.

According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, more than half the states in the country have created credits against state taxes to provide incentives for the

rehabilitation of historic buildings. The federal income tax credit is worth 20 percent of eligible costs.

Under Senate Bill 973, additional funding would be available for rehabilitation projects here in Michigan. The measure is just the latest legislation to be approved in the downtown development package. The bipartisan package was designed following several months of Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee hearings conducted throughout the state.

SB 973 now heads to the House for consideration.

## ***Around the District***

### **Grosse Ile students will have safer walk with grant**

Senator Bruce Patterson proudly announces that Grosse Ile Township Schools will be receiving federal funds to participate in "Safe Routes to School" program. Grosse Ile Middle School, Parke Lane Elementary School and Meridian Elementary School will receive over \$496,000 to implement the plan.

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Michigan Fitness Foundation reviewed the grant applications. The schools receiving the funding will implement education and encouragement programs during the 2008-2009 school year, and complete infrastructure work, such as sidewalks and crosswalks, in 2009. The Safe Routes to school program encourages parents, teachers, neighborhoods and schools to work together to improve safety for children who walk and bike to school.

The committee went through an arduous process to complete all the needed material. "I would like to thank all the parent volunteers for their hard work and commitment. It is concerned individuals like them that can achieve great things," said Senator Patterson.

Sarah Gilroy, Meridian Elementary School coordinator said, "We would like to express our gratitude to Senator Patterson for his input and continued support of the Grosse Ile Schools. Working together with Senator Patterson, we were able to get almost a half a million dollars for our community."

A portion of the federal funds will be used to improve sidewalks on Parke Lane, Burning Bush Road, Berkshire Drive, Meridian Road, Manchester Boulevard and Grays Drive and to improve connections from school property to existing sidewalks.

## ***Useful Information***

### **Hunting Resources**

Hunting season is upon us. The Department of Natural Resources has an abundance of useful information. Visit the website at:

<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

You can also find maps of open to public hunting land at:

[http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10371\\_14793\\_51784-200319--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10371_14793_51784-200319--,00.html)

### Important Dates and Season Information

Hunt	Zone	Season Dates
Youth & 100% Disabled Veterans Deer Hunt	Statewide	Sept. 27 - 28, 2008
Archery	Statewide	Oct. 1 - Nov. 14, 2008 Dec. 1, 2008 - Jan. 1, 2009
Regular Firearm	Statewide	Nov. 15 - 30, 2008
Muzzle-loading	Zone 1	Dec. 5 - 14, 2008
	Zone 2	Dec. 12 - 21, 2008
	Zone 3	Dec. 5 - 21, 2008
Late Firearm	Antlerless deer on private land only in <u>Open DMUs</u>	Dec. 22, 2008 - Jan. 1, 2009

### Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in our current state issues. If you would like to receive future updates via email, please contact my office at [senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senbpatterson@senate.michigan.gov) You can also visit me in my Lansing office at 505 Farnum Building, just across S. Capitol Avenue from the state Capitol; or you can send me mail at P. O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909. Telephone (517) 373-7350 or (866) 262-7307; fax (517) 373-9228. I want to hear from you! Visit [www.senatorbrucepatterson.com](http://www.senatorbrucepatterson.com)

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